

Green Council Established

City Manager Doug Selby has invited 11 sustainability experts to serve on the city's Green Council. This voluntary group of advisors will advise the city manager on how best to advance the city's Sustainability Initiative. An area of focus for the council is to help the city apply measures from the land use and green building sections of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Blueprint for Nevada that would be appropriate for the city.

The group has met three times in the last two months. Initially, they have been asked to review and recommend appropriate changes to the city's building, zoning and subdivision codes. They may also consider additions to the city's Green Building Program for both residential and commercial development that could include incentives and mandates. Lastly, they have been asked to review recent efforts by the U.S. Green Building

Council, the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers, and the International Codes



Council, which have created green building and development standards and codes to determine which may be applied locally with success.

During their initial meetings the group

considered what areas or issues they could focus on most productively. They unanimously agreed that they should remain focused on items that the city has direct control over and the ability to affect. The council committed to focus on resources, energy and water for example, from a job creation and economic prosperity perspective.

The council has elected Pam Vilkin, owner of Greenview LLC and chair of the Sustainable Development committee of the Las Vegas chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP), as chair. (To learn more, please read her profile on page 8.) Planning & Development Deputy Director Tom Perrigo serves

as staff advisor.

The city is most appreciative of these volunteer professionals and their expertise, guidance and time to help the city meet its sustainability goals.

Summer 2008 • INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Stormwater Quality

The impact of urban development on stormwater quality is a significant concern by federal and state environmental regulators and municipalities throughout the country. Although the Las Vegas valley receives less than four inches of rain annually, storm events directly affect the quantity, quality and velocity of urban runoff entering the Las Vegas Wash and Lake Mead. Poor water quality can create health hazards for humans, fish and wildlife and erode the quality of sensitive desert habitats and recreation areas.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal designate, the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP), recently conducted an audit of the Las Vegas valley co-permittees that have been issued a permit called an MS4 permit to discharge stormwater and non-stormwater. The city of Las Vegas along with Clark County and the cities of Henderson, and North Las Vegas were found to not meet the current

national stormwater quality requirements under the federal Clean Water Act and therefore must revise their regulations in order to be in compliance.

Typical stormwater pollutants generated by land development and directly affecting aquatic resources include soil, fertilizers, trash, petroleum products, metals and various other chemical and organic matter. These contaminants or non-point sources of pollution end up in our storm drain system through water run off at construction grading locations, parking lots, streets, developed sites and their associated operations. When the undeveloped land is disturbed and the natural drainage and filtration process has been altered, there are potential impacts such as erosion, downstream sedimentation and increases in runoff velocities.

Las Vegas' current stormwater management involves the use of the existing regional flood control system and detention basins. It has been determined that this approach is not effective at reducing contaminant loads. In order for the valley to renew the MS4 permit and achieve a level of conformance acceptable by the EPA and NDEP, enhancements to existing stormwater management pro-

grams are required including site specific permanent Post-Construction Best Management Practices at all new development and significant redevelopment sites.

A range of site design, source control, and treatment control methods are being considered by the regional Stormwater Quality Management Committee as potential best management practices appropriate for our unique valley environment. The EPA and NDEP are recommending site design that utilizes Low Impact Development, a landscaping technique focused on capturing excess runoff on site and filtering stormwater through vegetated swales or retention basins. Other site design techniques can be employed to include decreasing hardscape areas that water can't pass or percolate through, enhanced landscape planters that capture run off from roof drains, on-site water retention measures, street sweeping and public education.

Over the next several months, the regional Stormwater Stakeholders Working Group, comprised of staff from each of the co-permittee cities, the Southern Nevada Water Authority, the Clark County Regional Regional Flood Control District, Southern Nevada Home Builders Association and other members of the development community, will determine program goals and objectives for the Post Construction Best Management Practices program and establish standards in an updated regional Stormwater Management Plan. Additionally, modifications to existing land development codes will be made and are scheduled for implementation in early 2009.

Editors note: This edition of *Growth Watch*, published by the Planning & Development Department since 1997, has been changed to *Green Watch* so we may update the community on the city's Sustainability Initiative. *Green Watch* and *Growth Watch* will now alternate on a quarterly basis and will continue to present the city's growth data.



The Charlie Kellogg and Joe Zaher Sports Complex also serves as a detention basin for storm run-off.



Urban Pathways

The Urban Pathways, a concept first introduced in the Downtown Centennial Plan, is a network of cultural and recreational pockets linked by pedestrian corridors and urban trails throughout the downtown area. The pathways will connect the nine downtown districts including Union Park, Fremont East, "Glitter Gulch" and the 18b Las Vegas Arts District. The pathways will also have recreational amenities such as chess playing areas, tot playgrounds, dog parks and court games in suitable locations for people to gather and play.

The city has recently completed the Hoover Street project that connects Las Vegas Boulevard to Casino Center Boulevard, providing a pleasant streetscape connecting recently completed residential high rises Soho Lofts and Newport Lofts. The widened sidewalks and additional shade trees on the four blocks help reduce the urban heat island effect as well as improve safety and increase street activity.

The Casino Center Boulevard project by the Southern Nevada Regional Transportation Commission for the Bus Rapid Transit system's new "ACE" route is underway in the three blocks south of Charleston Boulevard. This stretch is located in the 18b Las Vegas Arts District and includes widening the sidewalk and adding shade trees and other landscaping as requested by the city.

The Fremont East entertainment district is reviving the glamour of vintage Las Vegas. The district is an eclectic mix of dining and entertainment hot spots that are attracting new and returning visitors to downtown. The new streetscape that is part of the urban trail system includes retro neon signs, sidewalks, landscaping, medians and roadway improvements that were funded via a special improvement district between the city and property owners.

The Cultural Corridor Trail, currently in the design phase, will connect



Recently completed streetscape additions on Hoover Street.

downtown to the cultural amenities on Las Vegas Boulevard North. The cultural corridor district includes the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Natural History Museum and the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort State Historic Park. The Neon Museum's Visitor Center is under construction and the adjacent Neon Boneyard Park is in the design phase. Treasured historic neon signs have been restored and will be placed in the median within the cultural corridor district in the future.

The city's Urban Pathways are integral to the city's Sustainability and Urban Forest Initiatives. Creating a vibrant and liveable downtown is a key objective for the city and is reflected in all its redevelopment efforts. Providing attractive, appealing pathways that connect the city's unique districts, landmarks, neighborhoods and parks encourage walking and bicycling by residents and visitors that will reduce vehicle miles traveled and promote wellness. The improvements allow for sidewalk cafes and create desirable locations for shopping, dining and socializing. The shade trees filter pollutants, while improving air quality and the aesthetics of downtown.

On December 1, 2005, the city adopted the Urban Pathways concept as part of the Downtown Centennial Plan. The Planning & Development Department realized that an additional 18,000 residents could be living downtown by 2015 and would need recreational opportunities. There are 2,300 residents nearby and

are not served by a neighborhood park. Urban Pathways is an innovative solution that provides the recreational opportunities the community needs without requiring large tracts of land and a water intensive landscape.

City Adopts Urban Forestry Initiative



The Las Vegas City Council recognized the value and importance of its existing and future tree cover by recently adopting the Urban Forestry Initiative. This effort will contribute to the city's long-term sustainability as trees clean the air, improve stormwater management, conserve energy, reduce the urban heat index, improve public health and increase property values. In addition to the tangible benefits of city trees, they add ambiance and beauty to the community. Streetscape trees invite more street level activities like dining, shopping, walking and cycling in a more comfortable and attractive setting.

The city has been awarded a \$38,000 grant from the Nevada Division of Forestry-Urban and Community Forestry Program and the USDA Forest Service and a match amount of \$10,000 from the Southern Nevada Water Authority to conduct the first phase of the inventory of the existing tree canopy coverage. This assessment of the canopy coverage status is the first step in the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan that will be completed for City Council consideration in 2009.

The initiative's goals include doubling the tree canopy coverage to 20 percent by 2035 and working with existing and new neighborhoods.



International Sustainability Organization Honors Las Vegas

The city of Las Vegas was honored as a "Key City for CAPPA" by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability at the Local Action Summit North America held in Albuquerque in May 2008. Deputy Director Tom Perrigo, AICP, of the city's Planning & Development Department, accepted the recognition on behalf of the city.

The recognition was based on information the city submitted about ten programs including the Alternative Fuels Program, CELEBRATE program (City

Employees Lowering Energy Cost by Recycling and Tracking Efficiency), turf conversions and the Methane Recovery Project at the Water Treatment Facility. The city has been a member of ICLEI since 2007.

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability will launch its Climate and Air Pollution Planning Assistant tool (CAPPA) this year to assist local government leaders in developing customized plans for reducing climate and local

air pollution based on the collective advice of local governments throughout the organization's network.

The name of the organization was changed to ICLEI – Local Governments from the International Council for Local



Environmental Initiatives in 2003. It is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable develop-

ment. More than 815 cities, towns, counties, and their associations worldwide comprise ICLEI's growing membership.

ICLEI provides technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local govern-

ment in the implementation of sustainable development at the local level. Its basic premise is that locally designed initiatives can provide an effective and cost-efficient way to achieve local, national, and global sustainability objectives.

City of Las Vegas Celebrates Earth Day's 38th Birthday

Councilwoman Tarkanian hosted an event at the city's Mirabelli Community Center to celebrate the 38th Earth Day on April 19, 2008. The community was able to interact with several local organizations including Nevada Power, the Las Vegas Springs Preserve and Republic Services. The city of Las Vegas Planning & Development Department was also on hand to promote the city's Sustaining Las Vegas initiative.

Matthew Koepnick from the Nevada Division of Forestry presented Council-

woman Tarkanian and representatives from the city's Field Operations Department with the 2007 Tree City USA plate. A ceremonial tree was also planted on the west end of Mirabelli to mark the occasion. The city of Las Vegas has been a Tree City USA member for 16 years.

The Planning & Development Department also exhibited again at UNLV's annual Earth Day Fair held on April 23, 2008. This event is held for Clark County school children ages 6 – 11. The exhibi-



Students were treated to a demonstration on carbon dioxide "nucleation" using a carbonated drink.



Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian with Mathew Koepnick unfurl the Arbor Day Foundation flag.

tors provided Earth Day or environmentally-themed games and activities. The children had fun while learning about taking care of their home and planet.

The Planning & Development Department gave out "green" word search puzzles and pencils to the hundreds of children and teachers. But the hit of the occasion were the exploding science experiments conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and several students from UNLV.



DSC Hosts Workshop

Multiple departments of the city hosted members of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) for their annual education workshop on June 17, 2008. The topic was the "Application Process." The departments housed in the Development Services Center (DSC) value this yearly opportunity to go through the process and simplify and clarify any perceived complexities and confusion regarding the city's development process.

Planning Manager Doug Rankin, AICP of the Planning & Development Department presented an overview of the DSC and a step by step explanation of the application process. Beginning with the entitlement or land-use application process, through land development review, fire protection engineering review and the construction permit process, attendees received a comprehensive training on how the city of Las Vegas manages development within its boundaries.

Rankin was supported by fellow staff members who were on hand for an in-



NAIOP members listen intently to DSC information.

depth question-and-answer session. Fire Protection Engineer Ozzie Mirkhah of Las Vegas Fire and Rescue, Engineering Project Manager Dennis Moyer of the Public Works Department and Plans Examiner II Don White of the Building and Safety Department responded to the attendees' questions about specific situations and concerns.

The Q&A session was followed by a brief presentation of how to find information, forms and check the status of applications and permits on the city's Web site. One helpful tip is that one can use the DSC's page www.lasvegasnevada.gov/DSC to access each department. From the city home page one can also find information on how to "apply for" and "check status of" planning and land development applications and building permits.

QUARTERLY TRAINING SESSIONS

The Planning & Development Department hosts quarterly training sessions on recently adopted text amendments and addresses attendees' zoning and planning questions. The next sessions will be:

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008

Development Services Center

731 S. Fourth St.

Las Vegas, NV 89101

For more information contact Planner II Melissa Hays at 702-229-4606 or mhays@lasvegasnevada.gov.

If you know of an organization or company that would like to arrange training on the city's development process or online resources, please contact Public Information Officer, Tina Past of the Planning & Development Department at tpast@lasvegasnevada.gov.

Sustaining Las Vegas in the Community

The Planning & Development Department recently took part in two new events aimed at public education. The Greater Las Vegas Board of Realtors (GLVBR) hosted a Community Information Fair at their facility on May 23, 2008 for their members to learn about

community programs and services provided by local cities and non-profit organizations. The Southern Nevada Home Builders Association (SNHBA) presented an Environmental Fair for their members to learn about sustainable programs and products for new green homes on June 17, 2008 at a local hotel.

The department shared information about the all the aspects of the city's Sustaining Las Vegas initiative and the Green Building Program at both events. The realtors and homebuilders were keenly interested in learning more about the city's sustainable activities and efforts. The department was pleased to

participate in these inaugural events and encourage the greening of Las Vegas. We're looking forward to participating again next year.



Planning & Development staff members Paul Grimyser and Tina Past exhibited Sustaining Las Vegas at Southern Nevada Home Builders Association's recent Environmental Fair.



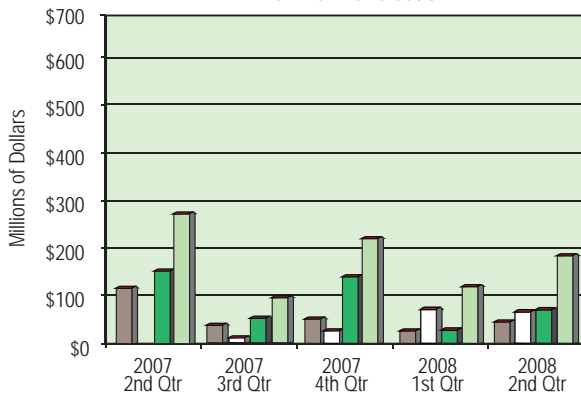
Single Family

Multi-Family

Commercial

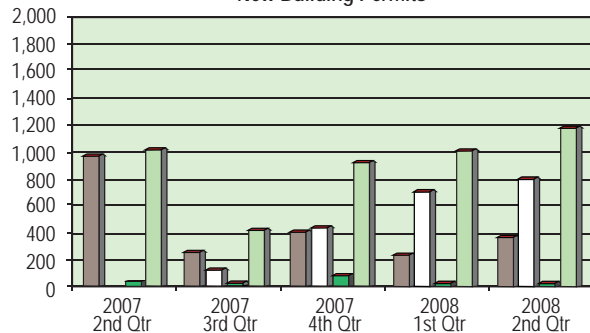
Total

New Permit Valuation



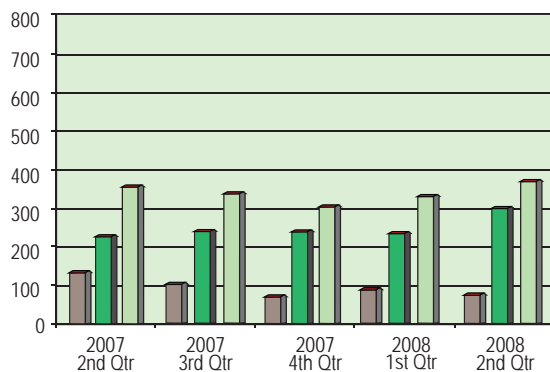
New Permit Valuation				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2007	\$118,454,694	-	\$152,334,473	\$270,789,167
3rd Qtr-2007	\$34,566,553	\$9,239,416	\$50,737,675	\$94,543,644
4th Qtr-2007	\$52,723,002	\$26,997,806	\$140,630,345	\$220,351,153
1st Qtr-2008	\$27,554,305	\$70,005,634	\$23,145,334	\$120,705,273
2nd Qtr-2008	\$41,809,724	\$64,442,112	\$74,293,054	\$180,544,890
% Chg Last Qtr	51.7	-7.9	221.0	49.6
% Chg Last Year	-64.7	100.0	-51.2	-33.3

New Building Permits



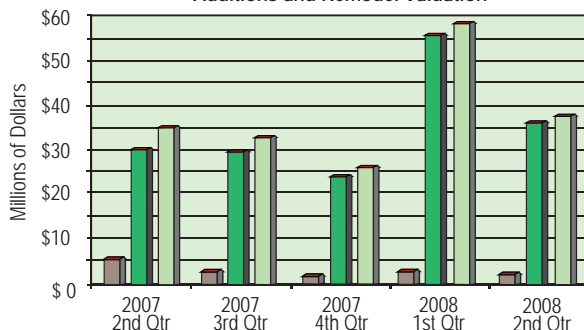
New Building Permits				
	Single Family	Multi-Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2007	991	-	36	1,027
3rd Qtr-2007	263	127	35	425
4th Qtr-2007	411	435	84	930
1st Qtr-2008	251	739	23	1,013
2nd Qtr-2008	367	797	23	1,187
% Chg Last Qtr	46.2	7.8	0.0	17.2
% Chg Last Year	-63.0	100.0	-36.1	15.6

Additions and Remodels



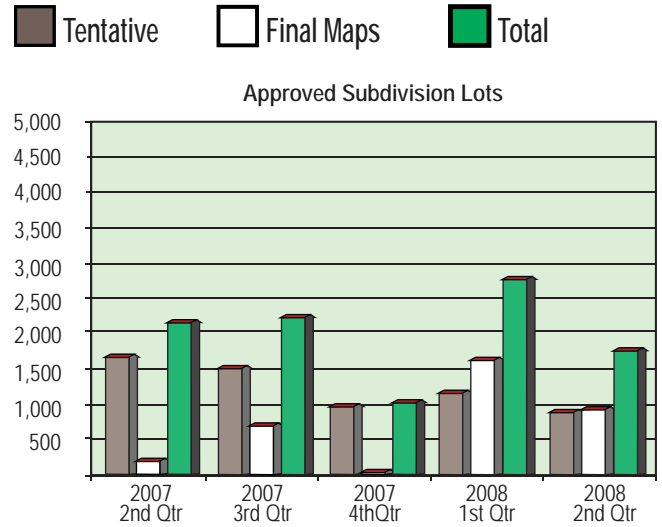
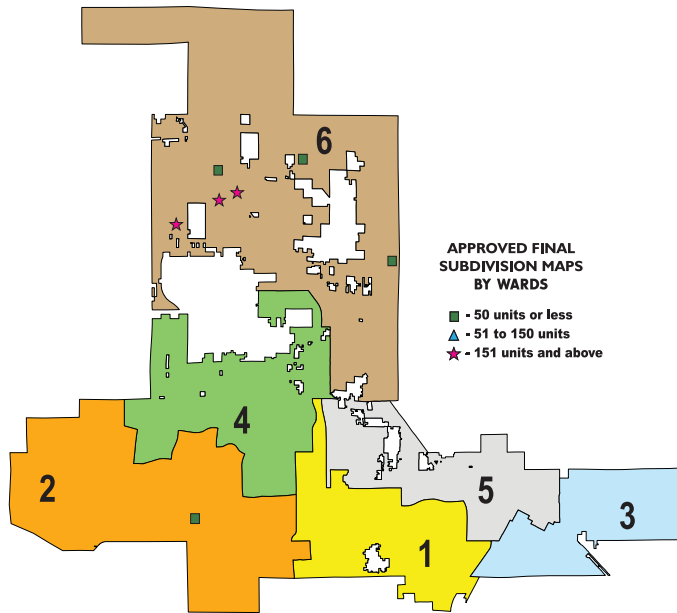
Additions and Remodels			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2007	131	228	359
3rd Qtr-2007	99	238	337
4th Qtr-2007	69	237	306
1st Qtr-2008	90	238	328
2nd Qtr-2008	72	301	373
% Chg Last Qtr	-20.0	26.5	13.7
% Chg Last Year	-45.0	32.0	3.9

Additions and Remodel Valuation



Additions and Remodel Valuation			
	Single Family	Commercial	Total
2nd Qtr-2007	\$5,232,608	\$30,275,459	\$35,508,067
3rd Qtr-2007	\$2,630,430	\$29,762,596	\$32,393,026
4th Qtr-2007	\$2,012,455	\$24,212,312	\$26,224,767
1st Qtr-2008	\$2,914,131	\$55,869,521	\$58,783,652
2nd Qtr-2008	\$2,065,200	\$35,808,469	\$37,873,669
% Chg Last Qtr	-29.1	-35.9	-35.6
% Chg Last Year	-60.5	18.3	6.7

Source: city of Las Vegas (including subdivision information)



Source: city of Las Vegas

Leading Economic Indicators For Clark County

"The Index of Leading Economic Indicators for Southern Nevada declined in June, we find eight of the 10 indicators showing declines from the same month a year ago. Permitting activity produced some of the largest percentage changes, but contributed less to the index's decline than other series. Seasonality and weighting of the 10 indicators resulted in passenger traffic at McCarran Airport being the biggest drag on the index. Rising energy prices have sent fares up, resulting in a weaker tourism market."

Source: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research

Approved Subdivision Lots			
	Tentative Maps	Final Maps	Total
2nd Qtr-2007	2,444	636	3,080
3rd Qtr-2007	1,744	814	2,558
4th Qtr-2007	970	25	995
1st Qtr-2008	1,177	1,626	2,803
2nd Qtr-2008	886	889	1,775
% Chg Last Qtr	-24.7	-45.3	-36.7
% Chg Last Year	-63.7	39.8	42.4

Leading Economic Indicators						
CLARK COUNTY SERIES	DATE	UNITS	LATEST PERIOD	CHANGE PREVIOUS PERIOD	CHANGE YEAR AGO	CONTRIBUTION TO INDEX *
RESIDENTIAL BUILDING						
Units Permitted	Apr-08	#Units Permitted	1.156	97.95%	-42.94%	0.017%
Permit Valuation	Apr-08	Dollars	\$ 272,908,986	328.16%	-26.63%	-0.005%
COMMERCIAL BUILDING						
Permits	Apr-08	#Units Permitted	81	37.29%	-22.86%	0.000%
Permit Valuation	Apr-08	Dollars	\$ 124,213,825	165.41%	-46.68%	-0.012%
TAXABLE SALES	Apr-08	Dollars	\$ 2,915,083,188	-9.64%	0.22%	-0.008%
McCARRAN AIRPORT	Apr-08	Passengers Enplaned/Deplaned	3,77,868	-8.32%	-5.46%	-0.160%
GALLONS OF GASOLINE	Apr-08	Thousands of Gallons	65,990,719	-2.82%	-3.00%	-0.039%
GROSS GAMING REVENUE	Apr-08	Dollars	\$ 849,974,366	-2.51%	-4.79%	0.121%
CONVENTIONS HELD						
Visitor Volume	Apr-08	People	3,265,251	-4.63%	-1.48%	-0.035%
Attendance	Apr-08	People	538,316	-15.59%	-3.91%	0.010%
OVERALL CHANGE IN LEADING INDICATOR **	Jun-08		130.63	-0.11%	-1.85%	-0.11%

* The contribution to the index is a net-weighted average of each series after adjustment for seasonal variation.

** The index is a six-month forecast (October 2008) from the month of the data (April 2008) and four months from the month of the series (June, 2008).

Source: UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research



Pamela Vilkin, Chair, City of Las Vegas Green Council

Pamela Vilkin has been elected chair of the Green Council by her fellow council members. Her extensive background and expertise in green building and sustainability is an asset that both her peers and the city recognize and value.

Vilkin is a LEED® Accredited Professional and owner of Greenview LLC, a green building and sustainability consulting company which has received its certification as a woman owned business. She is a founding member and current president of the U.S. Green Building Council – Nevada Chapter and also serves as the chairperson of the Committee on Sustainable Development for the Las Vegas Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties.

Vilkin and her husband own Tradewinds Construction and Westwood Mechanical. Tradewinds was the first firm in Nevada to employ a LEED Accredited Professional. Vilkin has been a licensed real estate professional in Nevada for the past 20 years.



Pam Vilkin, chair of the City of Las Vegas Green Council.

She has also served as a project manager for sustainable projects, pertaining to improvement projects administered by the National Park Foundation and funded by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act. She has also worked with the Outside Nevada Foundation.

Vilkin spent most of her youth on Catalina Island in California and as a newlywed lived in Telluride, Colo. She and her family moved to Las Vegas in 1988 where she has successfully merged her personal commitment to sustainability with her career pursuits.

Las Vegas GREEN WATCH

City of Las Vegas

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Mayor Pro Tem Gary Reese, Ward 3
Councilman Larry Brown, Ward 4
Councilman Steve Wolfson, Ward 2
Councilwoman Lois Tarkanian, Ward 1
Councilman Steven D. Ross, Ward 6
Councilman Ricki Y. Barlow, Ward 5

City Manager

Douglas A. Selby

Deputy City Managers

Steven P. Houchens
Elizabeth N. Fretwell
Orlando Sanchez

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Deputy Director Tom Perrigo, AICP

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Sustainable Tips

Perform an Energy Audit

Nevada Power
www.nevadapower.com/conservation

U.S. Department of Energy
www.eere.energy.gov/consumer

Calculate your "Carbon Footprint"

Be Green Now
www.begreennow.com/calculator

Stop Global Warming
www.stopglobalwarming.org/carboncalculator.asp

Buy ENERGY STAR

www.energystar.gov

Use Alternative Transportation

Club Ride
www.rtcsonthernnevada.com/club_ride

Plant a Tree Shades of Green

www.forestry.nv.gov/main/urban_bmp.htm

2005 Trees of Tomorrow booklet
www.snwa.com/html/land_trees.html

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Republic Services (Household Recycling)

www.republicservicesvegas.com

Blind Center of Southern Nevada (Computers)
www.blindcenter.org?sc=recycling

Arc International Corporation (Electronics)
www.arcic.com

Conserve Water

Southern Nevada Water Authority
www.snwa.com/html/cons_index.html

Las Vegas Valley Water District
www.lvwd.com/html